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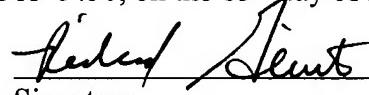
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Stephen J. TODD and Michael KILIAN
Serial No: 10/762,036
Confirmation. No.: 3938
Filed: January 21, 2004
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INDIRECTLY IDENTIFYING A RETENTION PERIOD FOR DATA IN A STORAGE SYSTEM

Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2171

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: